

A GODLY RESPONSE TO BIBLICAL PREACHING Part 1 - Acts 13:42-44 – March 2nd, 2008

- The Apostle Paul has just finished preaching his longest recorded sermon here in Acts 13, and is met with an interesting responses.
- Luke records, by the Holy Spirit, these responses from those, there, then, because of its application to us, here, now.
- We all respond in one way or another to the sound teaching of God's Word, and I would like to look at some of them in this study.

"It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability, that counts." (Corrie Ten Boom)

1. Wanting to hear more (Verses 42)

42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, **the people invited them to speak further about these things** on the next Sabbath.

v42 Luke tells us that as Paul and Barnabas were leaving, they responded by sort of begging them to speak more about this next week.

- They were consumed with and longing for more. The more consumed I am with God's Word, the more it consumes me.
- The longer I hear God's Word, the more I will long for God's Word. What I pursue, pursues me, what I get into, gets into me.

Psalms 119:20 My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. NIV

Luke 24:30-32 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" NIV

2. Continuing on in God's grace (Verse 43)

43 When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and **urged them to continue in the grace of God.**

v43 When they were dismissed, they followed Paul and Barnabas who talked with them and urged them to continue in God's grace.

- It's interesting to note how that this same group of believers would be known as the church of Galatia and fall back into legalism.
- In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he will have to write them about, again, continuing on in God's grace.

Galatians 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. NIV

3. Choosing to hear God's Word (Verse 44)

44 On the next Sabbath **almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.**

v44 We're told that almost the whole city showed up to hear the Word of God the next week.

- My choosing the word "choosing" was by design. Every week the choice is ours. Will we choose to come and hear God's Word?

Proverbs 8:10-11 10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, 11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. NIV